



Service Changes: LaGuardia Link Q70 Select Bus Service Service Increases

Sarah Wyss, Acting Chief, Operations Planning

Background

The LaGuardia Link Q70 Select Bus Service (SBS) provides connections between LaGuardia Airport and regional transit hubs in Woodside and Jackson Heights, Queens where passengers may connect to the **E F M R 7** subways, the Long Island Rail Road or buses.

The Q70 has been operated fare free since May 2022 in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), which provides funding to NYCT for the net increase in operating costs associated with providing fare free Q70 service.

Ridership on the Q70 has been trending up since 2022 and now exceeds the 2019 pre-pandemic ridership levels. Ridership in 2024 was approximately 25 percent higher than in 2019. These ridership increases have led to higher than guideline bus loads for certain trips.

Recommendation

Add 18 weekday trips to increase frequencies on the Q70 to address ridership increases.

Impact on Funding

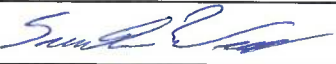
The net increase in operating costs of the Q70 associated with this service increase will be funded by PANYNJ.

Implementation Date

Summer 2025

Staff Summary



Subject	LaGuardia Link Q70 Select Bus Service Service Increase
Department	Operations Planning
Department Head Name	Sarah Wyss
Department Head Signature	
Project Manager Name	Robert Lai

Date	May 12, 2025
Vendor Name	N/A
Contract Number	N/A
Contract Manager Name	N/A
Table of Contents Ref #	N/A

Board Action					
Order	To	Date	Approval	Info	Other
1	President		X		
2	NYCT/MTA Bus Committee			X	
3	Board			X	
4					

Internal Approvals			
Order	Approval	Order	Approval
		4	Chief Cust. Officer
7	President	3	General Counsel
6	Deputy CFO	2	Sr. Dir., External Relations
5	Acting SVP, Buses	1	Acting Chief, OP

Purpose

The purpose of this staff summary is to gain presidential approval for and to inform the New York City Transit/MTA Bus Committee of an increase in service on the LaGuardia Link Q70 Select Bus Service in response to ridership increases.

Discussion

The Q70 is a Select Bus Service (SBS) route, branded as the LaGuardia Link Q70 SBS, providing service 24 hours a day, seven days a week connecting LaGuardia Airport's central terminals (Terminals B and C) with regional transit hubs in Jackson Heights and Woodside, Queens, where passengers may connect to the **E F M R 7** subways, the Long Island Rail Road (all easterly Long Island branches connect to Woodside) or buses. The Q70 travels a one-way distance of approximately 4.5-miles and transports an average of approximately 9,280 passengers per weekday, 7,150 passengers per Saturday and 7,370 passengers per Sunday.

The Q70 has been operated fare free since May 2022 in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), which provides funding to the NYCT for the net increase in operating costs associated with providing fare free Q70 service.

Ridership on the Q70 has been trending up since 2022 and now exceeds 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Ridership in 2024 was approximately 25 percent higher than in 2019, which was approximately 7,370 passengers per weekday.

Staff Summary



The increase in ridership has led to higher than guideline bus loads for certain trips, particularly because approximately 45 percent of riders on average are carrying luggage, which decreases the space available for riders, even with the luggage racks that are available on the Q70.

It is proposed to add approximately 18 weekday trips to address ridership increases between approximately 10 am and midnight. The peak period of Q70 operation is weekdays from noon to 8 pm where the Q70 operates on an eight-minute frequency. Weekday frequencies would improve from 10 am to 4 pm to between six to 7.5 minutes.

These service increases coincide with peak seasonal summer ridership, and the PANYNJ's announcement on March 25, 2025 to advance the 2023 recommendations of their Independent Panel of Transit Experts to improve transit access to LaGuardia Airport. These recommendations include improvements to the Q70 by improving its travelway, branding and customer information, which are to be implemented in phases by the PANYNJ in partnership with the MTA.

Recommendation

Add 18 weekday trips to increase frequencies on the Q70 to address ridership increases.

Alternatives

Do nothing. Service adjustments to better meet passenger demand would not be made.

Impact on Funding

The net increase in operating costs of the Q70 associated with this service increase will be funded by PANYNJ.

Implementation Date

Summer 2025